

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 ACDA-19 AEC-11 SCI-06 OMB-01 RSR-01 MC-02

/146 W

----- 073477

R 010515 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6608

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 1122

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, FR, MOPS, NZ, AS

SUBJECT: GOA/GNZ NAVY AND FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS

1. SECDEF ROBERTSON TOLD ME MAY 1 THAT AFTER
PRESSURE FROM PM KIRK, GOA DEFENSE MINISTER BARNARD
HAD SAID GOA WOULD SEND ALONG A TANKER TO ACCOMPANY
GNZS "CANTERBURY" IF NECESSARY AS A LAST RESORT.

2. ROBERTSON SAID THIS WOULD GIVE "CANTERBURY" ABILITY
TO REMAIN ON STATION AS LONG AS NEEDED (AND NOT
EMBARRASS US BY REFUELING AT PAGO).

3. HE SAID PM KIRK DID NOT REPEAT NOT INTEND
THAT "CANTERBURY" SHOULD TAKE PROVOCATIVE ACTION. IT
WOULD REMAIN OUTSIDE FRENCH TERRITORIAL SEAS (SIX MILES),
BUT THERE WAS POSSIBILITY OF ENTERING FRENCH
"PROHIBITED ZONE." EXERCISE WAS PLANNED AS
DEMONSTRATION OF GNZ DISAPPROVAL AND NOT AS
CONFRONTATION WITH GOFCRS.

4. ROBERTSON CONCLUDED HE HAD NEVER ENCOUNTERED
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SO MUCH RELUCTANCE IN PLANNING AN OPERATION WITHIN
HIS OWN DEPARTMENT AND FROM GOA, BUT IT COULD BE DONE.
WOOD

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Authority: willialc
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